(c) whether the Ministry is planning to launch nation-wise drives focusing especially on high-risk areas in the month of March, 2007; and

(d) if so, to what extent this action plan has helped in checking the polio in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, in order to build up immunity before the onset of the transmission season the extent of coverage of supplementary Immunization Activity of May, 2007 has been widened to cover about 72% of the target population in non-endemic vulnerable States which would help further to boost to immunity by providing an additional dose of OPV to children

(c) and (d) As per the recommendations of India Expert Advisory Group on Polio (IEAG) held in December, 2006 includes two National Immunization drives were held this year, January and February, 2007. The action plan implemented so far includes a series of immunization activities (upto 5 in the high risk areas of U.P. and Bihar) in the five months period from January through May-have led to a substantial decrease in cases compared to the following year (2003) of last outbreak in 2002 and very few cases in the core area of Western U.P. No fresh case of Type 1 polio virus has been reported from October, 2006 in Western U.P. districts which were epicentre of 2006 outbreaks.

Strengthening of PNDT Act

4071. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC&PNDT) Act, 1994, female foeticide is continuing in the country;

(b) the number of such cases reported and the details of action taken thereon;

(c) whether Government are considering any action for plugging the loopholes in the Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action plan of Government to totally eradicate female foeticide?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Total number of ongoing court/police cases in the country as on 03.05.2007 are 412. The number of cases pertaining to communication of sex of foetus in the country are 59.

(c) to (d) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (H&FW) has been constituted to consider necessary amendments/revision in the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Technique (PC&PNDT) Act to strengthen its implementation and related issues. The first meeting of the Committee was held on 30th April, 2007.

(e) The Action Plan of Government to tackle the issue of female foeticide includes a number of activities to strengthen its implementation as well as creating awareness on the issue. It is proposed to conduct medical audit of all the ultrasound clinics in the country to catch the violators of the Act. Number of activities through various print, TV medias are being undertaken. The Government has also launched "Save the Girl Child" campaign with the objective to lessen son preferency by highlighting the achievement of the girls. The National Inspection and Monitoring Committee (NIMC) is undertaking frequent visits to States/UTs to oversee the implementation of the Act in the districts. The National Support and Monitoring Cell is being strengthened by appointing a full time lawyer and a leader to monitor the implementation of the Act in vulnerable States of country.

Failure of NACO in AIDS control

†4072. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the absence of reliable data of the actual number of AIDS patients throughout the country, the alarming situation of India is being projected in the world by the foreign agencies;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.